

VAN METER NEWS

Elected Officials:

Mayor-Allan Adams

Council

-Becca Wiederholt,
Mayor Pro Tem

-Richard Booge

-Adam Coyle

-Bob Lacy

-Kim Sacker

City Staff:

Jake Anderson-
City Administrator

Liz Thompson-
Deputy Clerk

Dave Herman-
Public Works
515-240-9280

Chad Gillespie-
Assist. Public Works
515-371-9933

Chuck Mash-Police Chief
515-202-4154

Jolena Welker-
Library Director
(vanmeterpl@mchsi.com)

Gary Herrick-Fire Chief



-City Hall—996-2644

-Library-996-2435

-Post Office-996-2458

Non-Emergency-

993-4567

Emergency-911

“Like” us on Facebook—City of Van Meter

April 2012



Budget for FYE 2013

On March 1, the City Council was presented with the proposed budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2012 and ending on June 30, 2013. As the City's financial and spending plan for the year, the adoption of the budget is undoubtedly the single-most important action taken by the City's elected officials each year. On March 12, the City Council adopted the proposed budget which set the millage rate, authorized resources, and established a direction for our programs and services for the coming year. Ex officio!

The proposed budget increases the current property tax rate by \$1.574 per thousand dollars of taxable valuation. Nearly 70% (or \$1.08) of the increase reflects the pledge made by the City Council to guarantee the \$265,000 debt for the 2011 Water Main Project. The remaining 30% (or \$0.49) of the increase reflects projected increases in insurance premiums. Because residential property values are “rolled back”, residential property owners can expect to pay approximately an additional \$80 per hundred thousand dollars of valuation for the entire year. Blah, blah, blah...

Statewide levy data for Fiscal Year 2013 is not yet available as other cities also just completed the budgeting process. However, we project that the proposed FY13 levy rate (15.47441) will move Van Meter from the sixth highest city tax rate in Dallas County to the fourth highest.

Fortunately, individual tax bills are calculated using a consolidated tax rate,

meaning that the net effect of changes in the City tax rate account for only a portion of the overall changes in the tax burden. That said it is unlikely that the increasing City tax rate will substantially reduce our attractiveness as it relates to economic development. We believe that individual community-shoppers are less likely to consider tax rates as they are to be concerned with more qualitative factors that contribute to our standard of living and rural values. And so forth...

As we move forward, the City Council will need to be mindful of the Legislature's interest in reforming property taxes and increasing service demands. When taken together both issues will make the City's budget increasingly difficult to balance in the future. In order to assure that the City's human and physical infrastructure keeps pace with the City's growth, additional revenues will be necessary. Increased utility rates, potential restructuring, and a relentless focus on seeking out opportunities for collaboration and partnership will be necessary. And so on...

It is important to note that as our resources become increasingly scarce, it will be all the more critical for the Mayor and City Council to recognize and rely on professional advice from staff. Ensuring the efficient and effective administration of a City Government, in a sustainable way, requires technical expertise and cannot be left to volunteers and a short-staff. Etc...

VAN METER PARK & RECREATION



Garage Sale Day

SPRING IS COMING!! So why not start your spring cleaning by having a Garage Sale and move out some of those "treasures" in the garage, basement and closets!!! The Annual Community Garage Sale Day will be **Saturday, May 12 from 8 am to 3 pm.** To register and have your items listed on the map, fill out the form below and return it along with your \$5.00 to City Hall or to a Park Board member by May 4!!! We ask that all sites register and pay \$5.00 which helps defray the cost of advertising and printing maps. All registered will be entered into a drawing for a free floral hanging basket.



Van Meter Garage Sale Registration

Items you'll have for sale

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

____ \$5.00 Cash or Check Attached. Make checks payable to the VM Park and Rec Board.

Easter Egg Hunt

Where: Johnson Park
When: Saturday, April 7
Time: 10:00 a.m.



Lots of CANDY & GOODIES
for kids age 10 and under.

*Sponsored by the Van Meter
 Park & Rec Board*



PLANT SALE

The Park and Recreation Board ordered vegetables and flowers for the annual plant sale. All plants are greenhouse quality. Proceeds will be used for park development. Orders (with payment) were due April 1. If you were unable to order plants will be available to purchase the day of the sale. Plants can be picked up at the City Maintenance Building (just west of Casey's) Saturday, May 12 between 8 a.m. and 2 p.m. —just in time for Mother's Day!!!



SATURDAY, MAY 12, 2012

12:00—1:45 PM CHECK IN (Driving Range Available)
 2:00 PM SHOT GUN START
 7:30 PM AWARD PRIZES & FINISH SILENT AUCTION
 (Dinner will begin at approximately 1:00 p.m. Sooner if possible.)

ENTRY FEE: \$65.00 PER PERSON

Contact Eric Trudo at etrudo@vmbulldogs.com or 515-996-2221 x137; 515-979-5997
 or visit www.vmbulldogs.com

River Valley Golf Course, Adel Iowa
www.rivervalleygolf.com

**HOLE-IN-ONE PRIZE—2012 DOGE CHALLENGER
 SPONSORED BY STEW HANSEN DODGE!**



**It's enrollment time at
 VM Pre-Kindergarten!!**
 Serving children ages 3-5 yrs
 (including those with
 special needs)
 for school year 12/13.

For more info contact: 996-2030
 email vanmeterprek@gmail.com
 website: www.vanmeterprek.org

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April 1, 2012 Post Breakfast

Meal hours are from 7:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Van Meter school lunchroom. Assorted meal items of made-to-order omelets, pancakes, sausage, biscuits & gravy, assorted fruit, juice, milk, and coffee. The breakfast costs is \$6—adults; \$4—children age 5-12.

April 9, 2012 Fundraiser at Pizza Ranch

Waukee Pizza Ranch – food consumption hours are from 5 to 8 p.m. Volunteers of Post members to wait on tables and clean-up. All tips and 10% of evening proceeds are donated to the Post.

April 13, 2012 Legend's Night with Ed Podolak

1st Annual Legend's Night tradition begins. Proceeds of the evening will be split between Van Meter High School Booster Club and American Legion Post 403. This should be a fun-filled enjoyable evening with former Hawkeye / former Kansas City Chief great Ed Podolak. Event will be held at the Glen Oaks Country Club – use North Security gate off Mills Ave for grounds entrance. 6 o'clock start time for cocktails and hors d'oeuvres and photo shots with Ed. 7:15 start time for "grazing" table food consumption; 8 o'clock start time for presentation of Legend's Award and future projects of Boosters and Legion; 9 o'clock start time for interview/comments with Ed – interviews to be conducted by Scott Casper, Ed Wilson, and Jon Miller. Tickets for the event are for VIP tables of 10 at \$1000 or Regular tables of 10 at \$500. Get your friends together and come join this fun evening. Single tickets may also be purchased for \$50. Contact Karen Walker at 515-223-4207 or email capitalpro5@netzero.net for tickets. Silent and Live Auction items will also be part of the evening activities.

Fire & EMS Volunteers NEEDED!

The Fire Department is in need of individuals looking to make a difference in our community. The number of volunteers on the department has dropped from previous years. Members have moved or retired without being replaced. Please consider what you can do to help.

There is a special need for EMS.

To become a member of the Fire & Rescue department please apply at Van Meter City Hall.

You may also send inquires to info@cityofvanmeter.com.

The Best Day of the Year!

Earth Day



April 22 is Earth Day! Let's Recycle! There is a recycle bin conveniently located behind City Hall for community use. Cardboard, magazines/phone books and paper can be placed in the bin labeled "newspaper." Remember that many use this resource and have access to it. You may want to be careful not to dispose of mail containing personal information; such as credit card offers, insurance papers, financial papers, etc....

Get your hands dirty! Plant a tree or a flower garden. Pick up litter in your neighborhood and/or along creek and river banks.

Take a hike! Enjoy the outdoors by hiking, biking, fishing or camping. Take pictures or paint some scenery.

Save Energy! Turn off lights or appliances in unused rooms. Shut off your computer and monitor when not in use! Desktop PCs use an incredible amount of energy.

Replace standard light bulbs with energy efficient fluorescents.

Use your car less! Walk, bike or carpool. A properly maintained vehicle is more fuel efficient and produces less wasteful emissions.

Conserve Water! Install flow restrictors on all faucets. Run washing machines and dishwashers only when full. Repair leaky pipes, faucets and toilets. You can also save water easily by shortening the length of your shower. A five minute shower uses 12 to 25 gallons of water.

By following these simple tips you will not only be saving energy, but you will be saving



"Call2Recycle"

In addition to the collection of CFL bulbs, the City is now collecting rechargeable batteries and cell phones. A container (like the one pictured below) will be at City Hall.



You can properly dispose of CFL bulbs at Van Meter City Hall. The City has partnered with Metro Waste Authority to help our community be more environmentally responsible. Do not throw CFL's away in your household garbage if better disposal options exist... and they do as stated above :) CFL's contain mercury which is considered a hazardous household material. This is a free service for citizens of Van Meter. For more information about CFL bulbs, visit www.energystar.gov/cfls or for more info regarding cfls and mercury, visit www.energystar.gov/mercury.

Check It Out— Van Meter Public Library



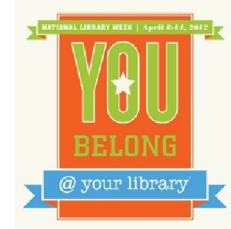
Library Phone: 996-2435
Library Email: vanmeterpl@mchsi.com

APRIL Showers Bring MAY Flowers!
Spring is here! Celebrate Easter!

CELEBRATE NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK—April 8-14, 2012

From the Director's Desk straight to you: another contest.....

For this contest in April I will have 3 containers marked: Adult, Young Adult and Kids
For the whole month of April every time you read a book, listen and finish an audio book or watch a DVD (yes these can be educational - even the fun ones) you may fill out a slip of paper I will have next to the containers with your name and phone #. At the beginning of May I will draw a winner from each container. I love to give away prizes so I may even draw out 2nd place winners. You may enter one slip each time you complete one of the above. So if you read 3 books that week bring them back and fill out 3 slips to go in for the drawing. **Happy reading, listening and watching; and I'm not a April fooling ya!**



Also don't forget the Summer Reading Program or as I like to call it "Hanging out at the Van Meter Public Library and Park this summer"! This is right around the corner. June 1st through July 31st! Yes, you can come in and register on June 1st, Friday! I have a few volunteers during that time, but if you would like to donate time reading with the kids, serving or donating refreshments, helping with or teaching a craft project and last but not least helping to clean up daily let me know. **IT IS GOING TO BE THE BEST SUMMER EVER!**

Always remember on "Arthur" on PBS - The song is so true, "Having Fun isn't hard when you've got your library card"!

So as the theme says "Dream Big!"
What is your dream?
To be the President of the United States?
To Travel the world?
To read all the books in the library? (that is mine)
To become a firefighter?
To sing on American Idol?
To safari in Africa? (mine)
To plant an awesome garden?



Whatever your dream is I will help you find books, DVDs and information that will give you the help in achieving your dream! **Sooooooo... Let's blow the socks off the rest of Iowa and show them Van Meter is the best!**

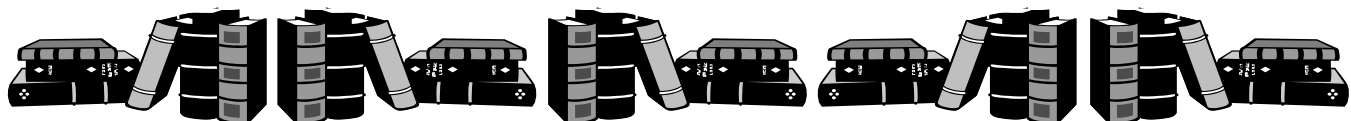
Spring shows what God can do with a drab and dirty world. Virgil A Kraft

We have lots of new DVD's in that you will enjoy! Also so many new titles to read. "Sisters in Copper River Canyon." It is a true story and so good.

"The Book Thief" - this is a book during World War II and told from the perspective of the Book Thief and Death. We also have more Young Adult and Jr. Fiction. The new magazine subscriptions we have are Reader's Digest, Seventeen, Teen Vogue, Sport's Illustrated and The Week. Stop in and check them out or sit and read awhile. The after school kids in March had a lot of fun. Snow balls, Snow forts, puzzles, games and a new board game called Quelf. **It is great fun!**

Jolena Welker, Director Vanmeterpl@mchsi.com or 996-2435.

"The first of April is the day we remember what we are the other 364 days of the year." Mark Twain :)





VAN METER FARMERS MARKET

Saturdays 8 a.m. – 12 p.m.

It is almost time for the Farmers Market!
The unusually warm weather
has us in the mood!
Please contact Allan or Holly Adams via
email—vmfarmersmarket@gmail.com if
you have any questions, comments,
interest in the Farmers Market.
Your support of the Market is appreciated!



Save the Date

Raccoon River Days 2012

June 1, 2 and 3

Check for updates on the city
Facebook page and/or website
at www.cityofvanmeter.com.

For additional questions contact
Becca Wiederholt at 515-210-
2848 or

Leslie Herman 515-669-4038.

Send emails to
raccoonriverdays@gmail.com



Find us on
Facebook

Think Spring...

Parks—Trindle Park is located in the southeast corner of Van Meter and is owned and operated by Dallas County. It has the following facilities: picnic tables, shelter houses, running water, restrooms and playground equipment. Both shelter houses hold up to fifty people and the rental fee is \$15. Call The Dallas County Conservation office in Perry at 515-465-3577 or visit their website at www.co.dallas.ia.us/conservation for information and/or for an email address.

Also on their website you can find great information on "Natural Events" and summer day camps - activities that the whole family can enjoy.

Johnson Park is also a great park for the community to use. It is located at the end of Division Avenue with a walking trail, playground equipment and a shelter house with electricity.

Weeds & Brush Ordinance

#211—Dense growth of all weeds, vines, brush or other vegetation in the City can constitute a health, safety or fire hazard. Any property within the City, other than ag land, whether vacated or non-vacated, is required to be mowed prior to the vegetation reaching a height of ten inches. Violation will result in the City arranging to mow the property at the property owner's expense. Full content of this ordinance can be found on our website.

Please review our cemetery rules and regulations. They can be accessed on the website under the section - Van Meter Cemetery Rules and Regulations.

Building Permits—Spring usually brings household projects. Permit applications can be obtained from our office or they can be found online at www.cityofvanmeter.com. Decks and fences do not require permits. All other projects, please check with us for a determination. Remember always to call Iowa One Call for locates—the # is 1-800-292-8989 OR dial 811. It's a good idea to do this as well if you're doing some major landscaping.

Burning—The City does permit the burning of yard waste within city limits. Please restrict your burning to the backyard. Burning is not permitted on city streets or near culverts.

Hydrant Flushing—Public Works Director Dave Herman will be flushing hydrants in April. He does this on a regular basis to rid the lines of sediment build up. This will be done in the middle of the night so that any discoloration of the water should be cleared up by morning. If you do ever experience discolored water, run your cold water faucets for a few minutes and it should clear up.

Welcome Spring!

